

Assuming this to be the case, his statements become intelligible, for when examined with a lens of low power the head appears to be furnished upon each side with a single ocellus.

Although Dr. Wood in his descriptions of *Opisthemea postica* and of *Op. spinicauda* makes no mention of the presence in these species of any eye-structures resembling those described above, yet Dr. Meinert, when characterizing the genus *Opisthemea*, remarks: "Oculi nulli vel evanidi." But since the latter author omits to state in which of the species described by him the eyes are "evanidi," it is fair to presume that he attaches no specific value to the features presented by these organs.

It is certainly to be regretted that a genus composed of species in which the eyes are either absent or rudimentary should be known by a name so inappropriate as *Theatops*. Yet the law of priority compels its adoption, and one's regret is perhaps to a certain extent lessened by the satisfaction derived from abolishing a name so ill-formed and so ill-sounding as *Opisthemea*.

#### *Theatops postica* (Say).

1821. *Cryptops postica* Say, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. ii. pp. 111, 112.  
 1844. *Theatops postica*, Newport, Trans. Linn. Soc. xix. p. 411.  
 1862. *Opisthemea postica*, Wood, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. v. p. 35.  
 1886. *Opisthemea crassipes*, Meinert, Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. xxiii. p. 209.

Dorsal plates ochraceous; head-plate castaneous; antennæ, ventral plates, and legs testaceous.

Head, body-segments, and anal legs strongly punctured.

Antennæ consisting of 17 segments.

Distal segments of the antennæ more or less moniliform and covered with short hairs. Basal segments bare.

Prosternal plates of the maxillary sternum almost in contact; each armed with three small obtuse teeth. Basal tooth small, obtuse and simple.

Dorsal plates, except the first and last, bisulcate; the first marked in front with a median longitudinal sulcus, which behind bifurcates and marks off with the posterior margin of the dorsal plate a triangular area. Dorsal plates, except the last, with simple margins.

Head-plate without sulci.

Ventral plates marked with a central longitudinal depression, the last elongated, with converging lateral margins,

rounded posterior angles, and a slightly concave posterior margin.

The dorsal plate of the anal segment quadrate, with straight margins, raised lateral borders, and a conspicuous median longitudinal sulcus. On each side the dorsal plate descends so as to form the lateral portion of the segment and so as to be separated by but a narrow space from the ventral plate.

The pleuræ of the anal segment appearing in the narrow space between the dorsal and ventral plates, extending behind slightly beyond the margin of the ventral plate, but not beyond the margin of the dorsal plate; not armed with spines; thickly punctured.

Tibiæ and tarsi of most of the legs armed below with a strong spur; claws of legs mostly armed.

Anal legs very thick, punctured, without spines, in contact; the inner surface of the three proximal segments flattened; the upper inner margin of the proximal segment raised.

Claw of anal leg unarmed.

Length about 20 millim.

I have had no opportunity of examining the type specimen either of *Op. postica*, Wood, or of *Op. crassipes*, Meinert. But the descriptions of these two species are so much alike and are so applicable to *Theatops postica*, Newport, that I have without hesitation regarded the three specific names as being referable to but one form.

Dr. Meinert suggests that *Op. spinicauda*, Wood, may be synonymous with *Th. postica*, Newport; but if the figure and description of the former species are to be trusted, the two must still be considered distinct.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVI. FIGS. 6-10.

*Fig. 6.* Anterior portion of the body of *Theatops postica* (Say), seen from above.

*Fig. 7.* Head of ditto, seen from below.

*Fig. 8.* Anal segment of ditto, seen from above.

*Fig. 9.* The same, seen from below.

*Fig. 10.* The same, seen from the side.